(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that due to defective Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) of many public sector banks, consumers are often unable to withdraw their deposited money from ATMs and they are facing many difficulties;

(b) whether there is any shortage of technical employees to repair ATMs; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to ensure smooth functioning of ATMs and to protect the interests of depositors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Public Sector Banks endeavour to maintain uninterrupted functioning of their ATM services. However, a few instances of difficulties being faced by customers in operation of these ATMs on account of network connectivity, power failure, hardware problems, shortage of currency during continuous holidays etc. have been reported. To be able to rectify these problems urgently, most of the Banks have Enterprise Monitoring Tools (EMT) which give the signal to the ATM Monitor Centre of the Bank about the cash drain out, power failure including UPS, hardware failure, connectivity failure and exhaustion of paper rolls, etc.

Bank have provided dedicated 24×7 toll free phone numbers with Help Desk, which enable them to proactively monitor all ATM related issues. Individual Banks have appointed well-established and qualified companies with skilled manpower and requisite technical expertise for managing and servicing of ATMs network throughout the country. The performance of ATMs is evaluated on a regular basis and wherever needed old ATMs are replaced with new ATMs so as to ensure their smooth functioning.

Depiction of violence, obscenity and vulgarity on TV

*153. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that depiction of violence, obscenity and vulgarity on the television (TV) is increasing;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to check depiction of violence, obscenity and vulgarity on the television; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Under Rule 6(1) (a) and (d) of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994, the depiction of obscenity and vulgarity on television is prohibited. Under Rule 6(1)(e) of the Cable Rules, any programme likely to encourage or incite violence is also prohibited. The attention of Government has been drawn to violations of the above provisions from time to time though no formal study has been brought to the notice of Government regarding an increasing trend.

(b) to (d) The Government had constituted a committee for reviewing the existing Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 and the rules framed thereunder to provide greater specificity to the provisions of existing codes. The Committee has submitted its report of the Government on 5.3.2008 which is available on the website of the Ministry ***www.mib.nic.in*** under the heading "Self Regulation Guidelines 2008".

The Government has also constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to look into the violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The IMC either *suo-motu* or on receipt of complaints look into the violation and thereafter gives its recommendations of the Government, based on which action is taken as per rules.

Use of Chinese handsets

*154. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cheap Chinese handsets are selling in Indian markets, which do not have an international mobile equipment identity and these pose a threat to India's security; and

(b) if so, the details of measures Government is taking or contemplating to take to ban cheap Chinese mobile handsets as most of the countries have strictly banned this kind of electronic devices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) It has come to the notice of the Government that Chinese mobile handsets without International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers are available in the market. As per Security Agencies, sometimes they use IMEI in tracking anti-social elements, and to that extent it becomes difficult for Security Agencies to trace persons using handsets without IMEI numbers.

(b) The Department of Telecommunications has issued direction to all the Access Service Providers (Licensees for Cellular Mobile Telecom Service (CMTS)/Unified Access Service (USA)/Basic (Service) for making provision of Equipment Identity Register (EIR) in their networks by 31.3.2009, so that calls from mobile handsets without IMEI or Electronic Serial Number (ESN) as the case may be, or calls from mobile handsets with IMEI/ESN of all zeros, are not processed and rejected. Further, although import of Cellular, mobile handsets is allowed under Open General Licence, with a view of safeguard Security, the Government has notified to Customs to allow import of mobile handsets after declaration of IMEI numbers only.

Doubling of India's loan entitlement

*155. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: